

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 03529 071231Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9035

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03529

EXDIS

SECTO52

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IS, PFOR

SUBJ: ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN OIL STORAGE
FACILITIES AND SUPPLIES

REF: NEA MEMO TO SECRETARY, FEB. 9, 1975
(S/S NO. 7502912)

1. SECRETARY REQUESTS THAT FOLLOWING RESPONSE FROM HIM
BE SENT TO SECRETARY SIMON IN REPLY TO SIMON MEMO
ATTACHED TO FEB. 9 NEA MEMO.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR BILL:

I HAVE BEEN REFLECTING ON YOUR MEMORANDUM OF JANU-
ARY 2 AND THE HELPFUL REPORT PREPARED BY GERRY PARSKY AND
HIS STAFF REGARDING ISRAEL'S UNDERGROUND OIL STORAGE
PROJECT.

THERE ARE OF COURSE TWO RELATED BUT SEPARATE ISSUES
INVOLVED: WHETHER, AND IF SO IN WHAT WAY, WE PARTICIPATE
IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND STOCKING OF THE EMERGENCY OIL
STORAGE FACILITY; AND HOW WE RESPOND TO ISRAEL'S DESIRE
FOR A GUARANTEED SUPPLY OF OIL PRESUMABLY INCLUDING RE-
PLENISHMENT OF THE STOCKPILE IN AN EMERGENCY. BOTH OF
THESE QUESTIONS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE HIGH ON THE LIST OF
ITEMS THE ISRAELIS WILL WANT TO DISCUSS WITH ME
ON MY PRESENT TRIP, AS WELL AS WITH YOU WHEN MINISTER
RABINOWITZ VISITS WASHINGTON FOR THE US-ISRAELI JOINT
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COMMITTEE MEETING LATER THIS MONTH.

IF THE ISRAELIS RAISE WITH YOU THE LATTER QUESTION
- QUARANTEEING THE PHYSICAL SUPPLY OF OIL TO ISRAEL -
THE LINE TO TAKE IS THAT THIS IS A SENSITIVE AND COMPLI-
CATED ISSUE BEST HANDLED OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE JOINT
COMMITTEE.

WITH RESPECT TO CONSTRUCTION AND STOCKING OF THE
UNDERGROUND OIL STORAGE FACILITY, SUPPORT FOR THE PRO-
JECT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT
STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE TIME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO
ISRAEL LAST JUNE. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, WANT TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OR USE OF SUCH A FACILITY. WE
SHOULD, THEREFORE, LIMIT OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAEL-
IS TO INDICATING THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO LOOK SYMPATHETI-
CALLY AT WAYS IN WHICH WE COULD HELP WITH THE FINANCING
OF THIS PROJECT, AS PART OF OUR OVERALL ECONOMIC ASSIS-
TANCE TO ISRAEL.

I WILL LET YOU KNOW OF ANY DISCUSSIONS I MAY HAVE
WITH THE ISRAELIS ON THIS QUESTION DURING MY CURRENT
TRIP WHICH MAY HAVE A BEARING ON YOUR EXCHANGES WITH THE
ISRAELIS IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONTEXT. IT IS IMPORTANT
THAT WE STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THIS AND, IN FACT, ON ALL
ASPECTS OF US-ISRAELI RELATIONS BEING HANDLED IN THE
JOINT COMMITTEE, SO THAT ALL ASPECTS OF OUR POLICY
TOWARDS ISRAEL CAN BE FULLY COORDINATED AND HARMONIZED,
PARTICULARLY DURING THIS DELICATE PERIOD. I KNOW YOU
RECOGNIZE THIS, AND I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR CONSULT-
ING WITH ME ON THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE THE SUBJECT OF
YOUR JANUARY MEMORANDUM.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,
HENRY
END TEXT

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